UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/578
16 May 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 16 MAY 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with instructions from my Government, I must inform you about a tragic development in Vukovje (Daruvar county) in the United Nations protected area (UNPA) sector West in the occupied territories of the Republic of Croatia, where Serbian extremists ambushed and summarily executed five civilians and wounded two on 11 May 1994.

This outrageous act of terror has raised serious concerns regarding the safety of the non-Serb civilian population in UNPA sector West and has had a detrimental effect on the public opinion in Croatia regarding the ability of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to protect the non-Serb civilians in this and other UNPA sectors.

I must emphasize to the Council, however, that UNPROFOR has been able to make a significant contribution regarding the implementation of Security Council resolutions in this sector in particular. It is the view of my Government that this ruthless act of terror was perpetrated precisely to destabilize the peace achieved in the area and delay the reintegration of this sector into the legal system of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Such intolerable violations of international humanitarian law in the UNPAs cannot be condoned. The members of the Council must take into consideration the fact that inaction and silence under such circumstances will not enhance the prospects for the peaceful reintegration of the UNPAs, but instead, will promote the status quo, which the citizens of Croatia, especially the 250,000 displaced persons, and the Government of Croatia cannot and will not accept.

My Government therefore implores the Council to consider this development in UNPA sector West with the utmost concern and to explore how this sector can be fully reintegrated into the legal system of the Government of the Republic of Croatia as soon as possible in accordance with resolution 871 (1993). Once an UNPA sector, like sector West, has achieved a desired level of peace, UNPROFOR should not delay its reintegration. This act of terror would not have happened had sector West been reintegrated into the security system of the Republic of Croatia.

The Council should also on this occasion consider the behaviour of the rebel Serb authorities regarding the implementation of the Zagreb cease-fire agreement of 29 March as discussed in my Government's letter to Your Excellency of 3 May (S/1994/535). These two developments can have a significant impact on the direction of the peace process in Croatia, and the members of the Council are respectfully requested that the worrisome developments be considered as soon as possible.

May I request your assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.